



Leopatra

**A CINEMATIC PLAY
WRITTEN & ADAPTED BY JOY YVONNE JONES**

Synopsis

Cleopatra is a one-woman adaptation of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra. This is a defiant cinematic production that deconstructs traditional narratives and introduces a perspective that embraces diversity and empowerment. By combining the beauty of Shakespearean literature with modern elements of performance, the adaptation breathes new life into the character of Cleopatra. In this production, Cleopatra has the freedom to be bold, sexy, vulnerable, and human.

Cleopatra is a Black Woman's story.

"Jones' play arrives at a time when American women's rights are under increasing attack from a country controlled by older White men. Maybe Cleopatra's story isn't such ancient history after all."

-Pam Kragen (San Diego Union Tribune)



Artist

Joy Yvonne Jones is an accredited actor, poet, playwright, model, and entrepreneur; who embodies revolutionary art with every project she is a part of.

Recipient of the San Diego Critic Circle Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Featured Performance in a Play, Joy's stage credits include Saartjie Baartman in Voyeurs de Venus (Moxie Theatre), Caitlin in the Ferryman (New Village Arts), Frances in Mud Row (Cygnet Theatre), Jane in Pride and Prejudice (Cygnet Theatre), Cleopatra in Antony and Cleopatra (New Match Collective), Lady Macbeth in Macbeth (Texas Shakespeare Festival).

Joy's play Ode to My Mothers was featured in the Old Globe Theatre's Juneteenth Celebration(2020). She also wrote the book for Get on Board, a protest musical recently performed at LaJolla Playhouse's WOW fest (April 2021), UCSD Epstein Ampitheatre (Juneteenth 2023).

Cleopatra, premiered at Moxie Theatre in San Diego, California August 2024. Receiving four Critic Circle Nominations, best new play, best costumes, best set design and projections.



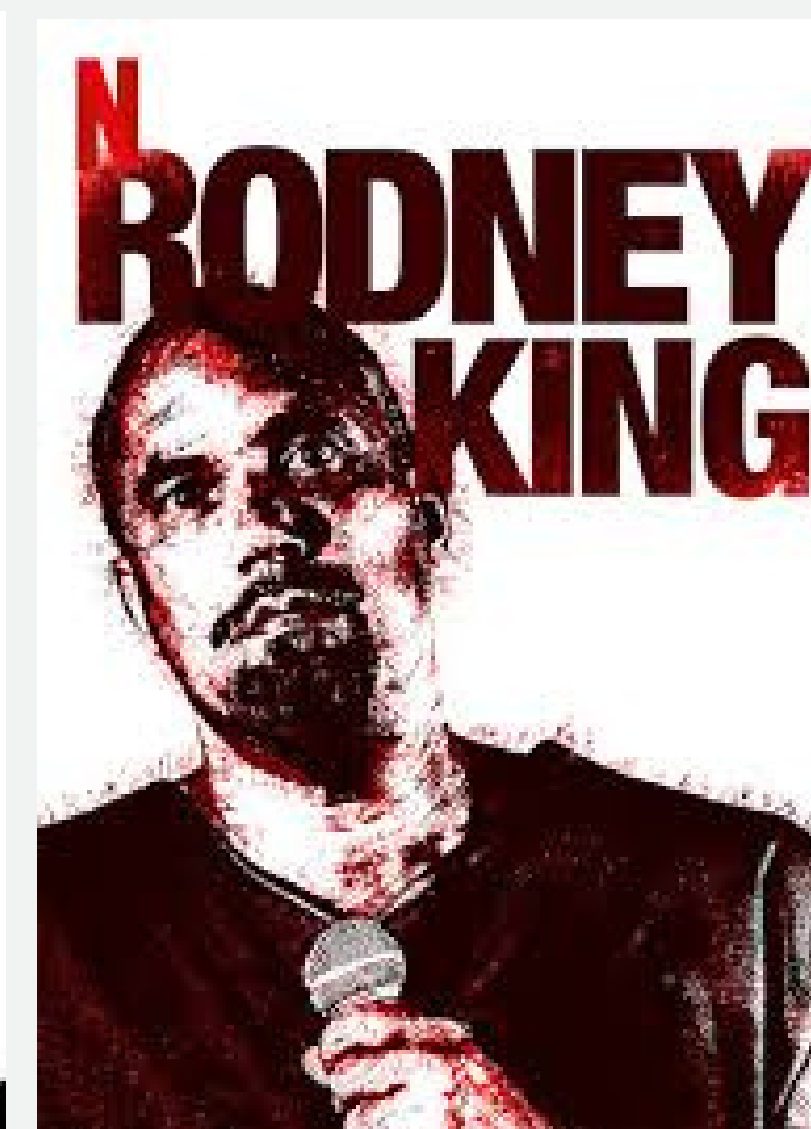
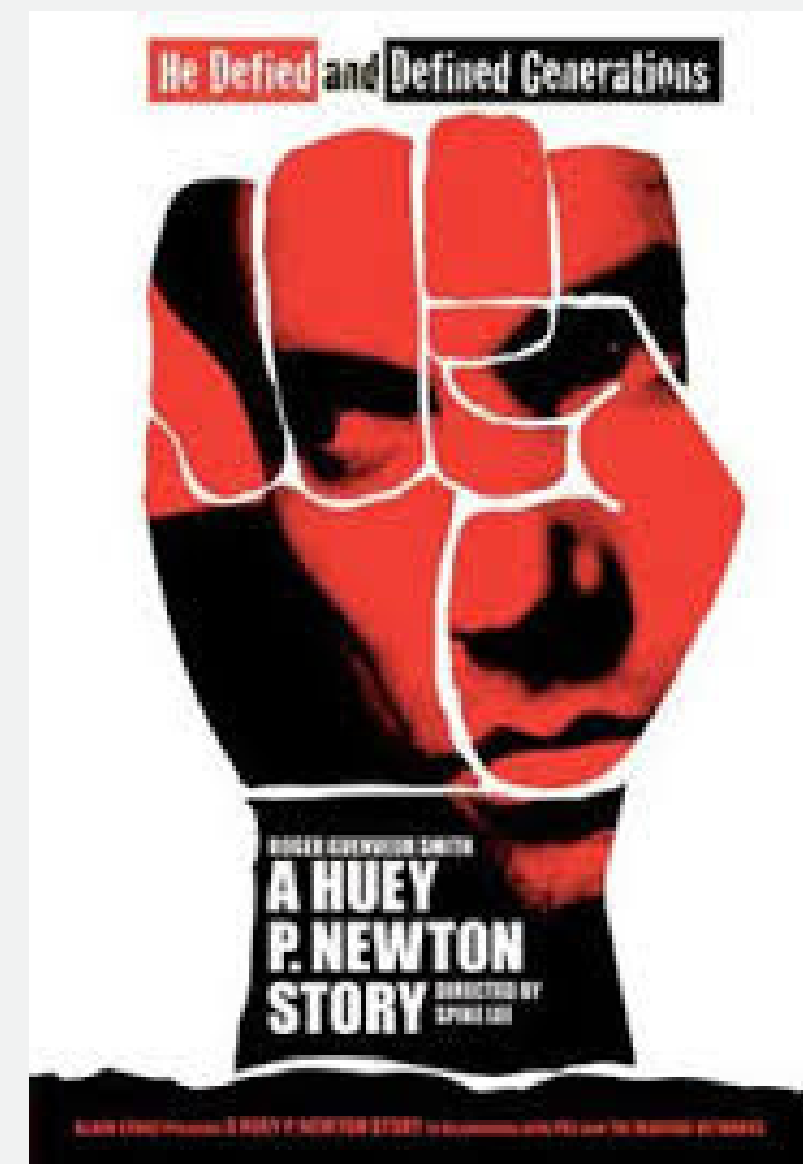
THE FILM / THE PLAY

Cleopatra is a cinematic play — a bold reimagining of Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra that fuses live theatrical performance with pre-recorded film elements to tell the story of a modern Black queen navigating power, love, and legacy. Blending classical text with contemporary poetry, this production brings new resonance to Cleopatra’s journey through a distinctly Black lens.

The production will take place at Houston’s historic Deluxe Theatre and will be professionally recorded in two stages: a quiet closed-set performance for clean cinematic capture and a live performance in front of a studio audience. The resulting work is a filmic artifact as much as it is a live experience — expanding the reach of the project beyond the stage to digital platforms, festivals, classrooms, and future performance spaces. Cleopatra is more than a show; it’s a statement of what theater and film can become when merged intentionally — a cinematic play that reclaims classical narratives through innovation, representation, and emotional truth.



INSPIRATION



AS SEEN ON





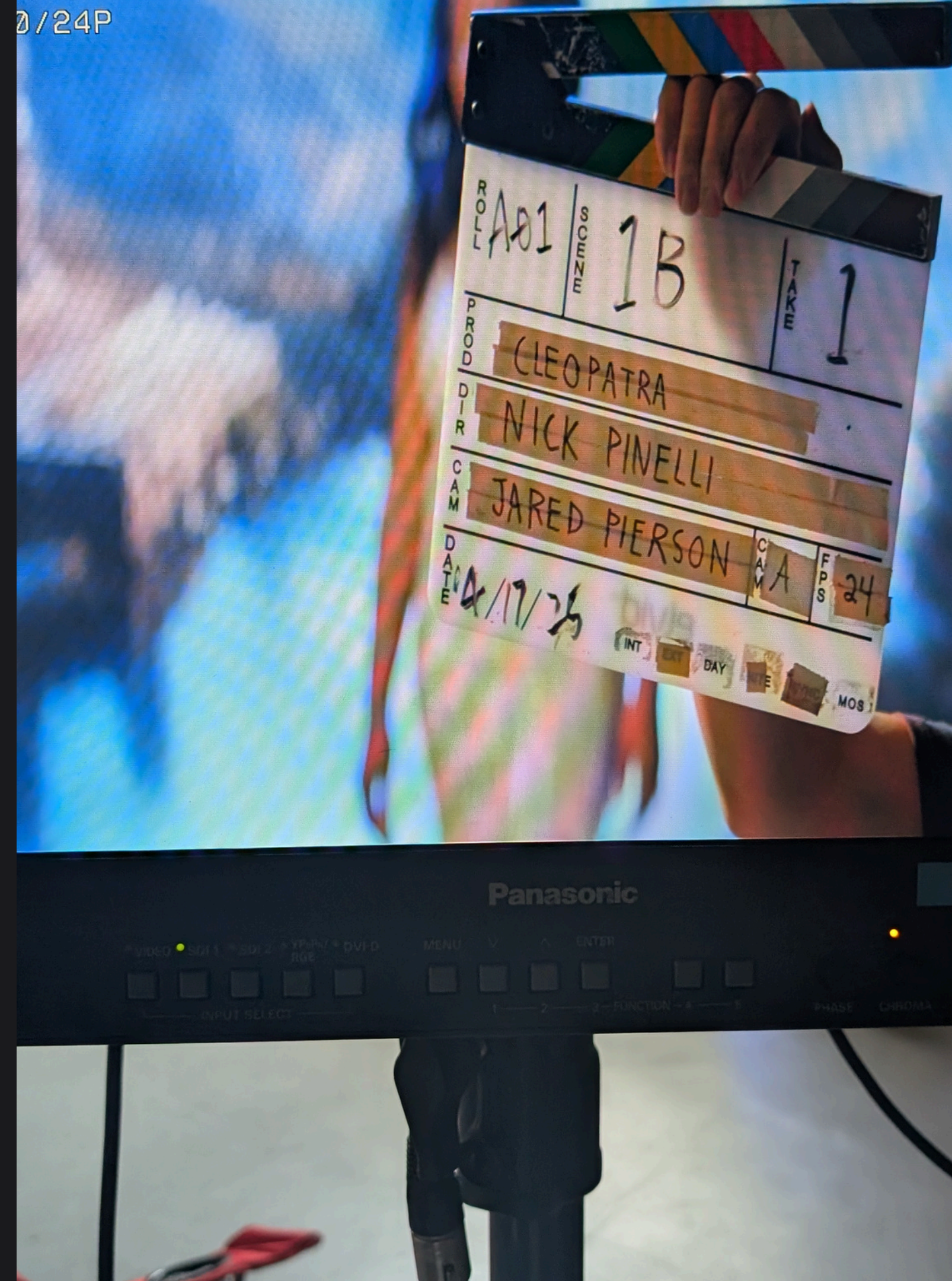
PRODUCTION PLAN

PRODUCTION



Based in the heart of Houston, Texas, **Banjo Beaver Productions** is where cinematic magic meets the spirit of teamwork. We're a film and television production company with a passion for crafting top-quality, narrative-driven stories that captivate audiences and leave a lasting impression.

Jenerro Wade, a former athlete and sports professional, founded Banjo Beaver Productions in 2021. Inspired by the values of pro sports, he ensures every project is approached with the same dedication, collaboration, and winning mindset that builds great teams. For us, it's not just about hitting deadlines or creating stunning visuals—it's about **creating memorable cinematic experiences that make you feel, dare you to dream, and question how you perceive the world through a community of creatives.**





Pre-Production

January- April 2025

- Script Finalization
- Casting
- Location Scouting
- Production Design, Visual, & Sound Development
- Equipment and Crew Hiring

Pro-Shot Filming

August 4th -14th

- Filming Locations: Deluxe Theatre
- Cleopatra, Charmian

Post-Production

September- December

- Editing & Assembly
- Sound Design and Mixing
- Visual Effects and Color Grading
- Test Screenings and Final Revisions

Scene Transitions

April 17th- 18th

- Filming Locations: Captiv Creative, Pond near Conroe
- Cleopatra, Antony, Caesar & Calpurnia

Distribution & Marketing

January - June 2026

- Film Festival Submissions
- Marketing Campaign
- Distribution Negotiations
- Premieres and Release

TARGET AUDIENCE

- **Black and BIPOC Communities** — People of color who rarely see themselves reflected in classical works and deserve access to high-quality, culturally resonant art.
- **Theatre Lovers & Shakespeare Enthusiasts** — Audiences interested in innovative, contemporary adaptations of classic plays.
- **Young Adults & University Students** — Especially students studying theater, literature, Black studies, or film, for whom the play offers both artistic inspiration and cultural education.
- **Artists & Creatives** — Local performers, filmmakers, and storytellers who will see this work as both a creative benchmark and an opportunity for connection and dialogue.



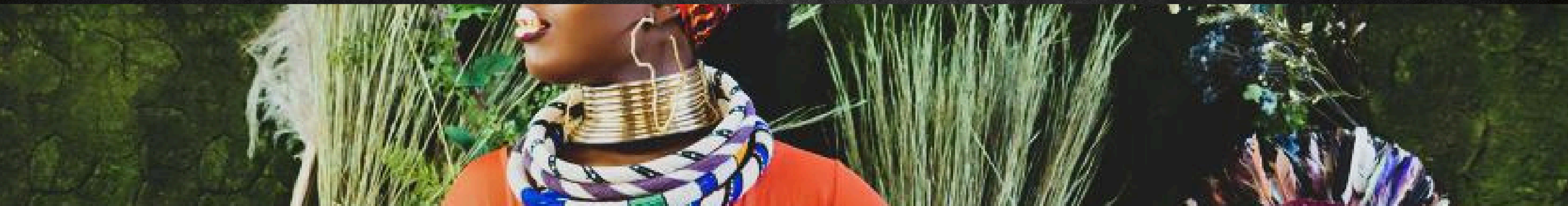


ENJOYS HISTORICAL DRAMAS,
TENSION-FILLED NARRATIVES,
POP CULTURE REFERENCES
AND CHARACTER-DRIVEN
STORIES.

18-65 (WITH A FOCUS ON 25-
40 YEARS OLD)

ENJOYS IMMERSIVE
EXPERIENCES, PHYSICAL
COMEDY, STUNNING VISUALS
AND INNOVATIVE ARTISTIC
EXPRESSION

VIEWERS WHO WANT TO HAVE
FUN.





MARKETING

THE PLAN



Film Festival Submission

Submit to film festivals that align with the artistic vision of the film:
American Black Film Festival, SxSW, Prague Fringe Film Festival, ect.

Theatre Submissions

Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
Old Globe Theatre
La Jolla Playhouse
Alley Theatre

Teaser Trailer

Create a teaser trailer that highlights the beauty and the nuances of the world of the play.

Press Kit

Develop a comprehensive press kit and reach out to key film blogs, indie film websites, and genre-specific outlets to secure early press coverage.

Social Media

Create buzz worthy stories that reach followers, shares, mentions, and influencers.

Festival Screenings

Create buzz worthy stories that reach followers, shares, mentions, and influencers.

Theatrical Tour

Tour of regional theatres ahead of the public release of the film.

Film Release

Release film on streaming platform

BUDGET

The total budget for Cleopatra is estimated at \$53,000- \$75,000. This budget will be allocated across several categories to ensure quality production values, marketing, and distribution.





THE ASK

We are currently seeking support to complete this vision, including funding for artist stipends, production design, cinematic filming, marketing, distribution, as well as mentorship and networking opportunities to expand the project's reach and sustainability. Your contribution will help ensure that Cleopatra not only reaches the stage, but lives beyond it, amplifying underrepresented voices and redefining what classical storytelling can look like for a new generation.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUPPORTER

\$1,000

- Logo on:
 - Program
 - Website
 - Film credits

PARTNER

\$5,000

- SUPPORTER package plus logo event signage
- Print ad included in program
- 2 premiere tickets + mention during event / screening
- Product integration
- Feature in press release

EXECUTIVE

\$10,000+

- VIP premiere experience
- Branding integrated into social media campaign + appearances
- Interactive engagement / booth at the premiere
- Host After-Party in the city of the festival following the screening

A woman in a white dress and headwrap stands on a grassy bank, looking out over a calm lake. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun, reflecting on the water's surface. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

WHAT MAKES GLEOPATRA UNIQUE AND COMPETITIVE

Cleopatra is a first-of-its-kind cinematic play, a bold hybrid of theatre and film that reimagines one of Shakespeare's most iconic characters through the lens of Black femininity, cultural power, and political legacy. This innovative structure, blending live performance with pre-recorded cinematic transitions, makes the piece both a powerful in-person experience and a lasting digital artifact.

What sets Cleopatra apart:

- **Form-Breaking Storytelling:** By fusing classical theatre with film aesthetics, Cleopatra pushes the boundaries of live performance and opens new doors for distribution, documentation, and accessibility. It's not just a play, it's a visual and poetic experience designed for both stage and screen.
- **Reclamation of Legacy:** This is not a retelling of Cleopatra but a reclamation. Written, performed, and produced by a Black woman, Cleopatra unapologetically centers a version of the queen rooted in historical strength, sensuality, and complexity, challenging centuries of erasure and exoticism.
- **Built-In Longevity:** Unlike traditional stage plays, Cleopatra is designed for multi-platform life: live audiences, cinematic festival circuits, academic use, and touring. Its adaptability makes it a strong candidate for long-term engagement and impact.

IN THE MEDIA

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GREAT DAY HOUSTON

Houston Happenings August 6 - 10, 2025

The Madd Hatta with Majic 102.1 details this weekend's best events



SUNDAY, 7PM - 9:30PM


CLEOPATRA ONE-WOMAN SHOW
THE DELUXE THEATER

greatdHouston

≡365THINGS TO DO INHOUSTON≡

Cleopatra: Live Performance & Film Taping at The DeLuxe Theater

Sunday, August 10, 2025 | 7:00 pm
PAY WHAT YOU CAN



≡Do★713≡

CLEOPATRA LIVE TAPING

Past(08/10/2025) 7:00PM - 9:30PM
Free
DeLUXE Theater

ABOUT

This is a [live taping of my cinematic play](#) **Cleopatra**—a modern retelling of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra through a Black woman's lens.

Cleopatra is a one-woman show that reimagines Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra through a Black woman's defiant cinematic perspective that challenges traditional narrative.

≡culturemapHOUSTON≡

Joy Yvonne Jones presents Cleopatra

f t e m



Photo by Andréa Agosto

Cleopatra is a cinematic play that fuses live performance with pre-recorded film elements to tell the story of a modern Black queen.



REVIEWS



Jones, as Cleopatra, is magnetic. She is untouchable and regal as a queen, vulnerable, and human with feelings and flaws. She highlights the humor, heartbreak, and humanity of this larger-than-life woman. She is not afraid to plot and plan and fight the Romans on a global stage but finds herself vulnerable and frustrated by a universal cause — being unable to calm her crying baby. She is strong throughout, but Jones is captivating at the end as Cleopatra reflects on her life and contemplates what she will do next.

_ ErinMarie Reiter (Broadwayworld)

In Jones’ play, Cleopatra is not a casual seductress but a savvy ruler who understands that forging relationships with leaders of the Roman Republic will stabilize her country. Her Cleopatra is keenly aware of the discrimination she faces from Romans as a dark-skinned woman. And when she give birth to Caesar’s son, Caesarean, she suffers from postpartum depression.

_ -Pam Kragen (San Diego Union Tribune)

Joy Yvonne Jones proves once again the high-calibered trained artist she is and like Cleopatra, is also beautiful and ethereal. Parallel to the projections and the live acting, there are interactions with five audience members who serve as messengers and deliver a couple of lines. Jones's interactions are well done and sometimes, she found moments to make them playful, which was well received by the audience. The lines were well performed and promptly.

-Alejandra Enciso- Dardashti (From Another Zero)

Accolades

San Diego Critic Circle Craig Noel Awards

2024

Nominated

Best New Play

Best Costume

Best Set Design

Best Projections